

King County Democrats 2008 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

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| Candidate Name | Debra Stephens |
| Position sought | WA State Supreme Court Pos. 7 |
| Residence LD | |
| Are you the incumbent? | yes |
| Campaign Information | |
| Campaign Name | Committee to Retain Justice Debra Stephens |
| Web page | www.JusticeDebraStephens.com |
| Campaign Email address | info@justicedebrastephens.com |
| Manager | Barbara Chadwick |
| Campaign mailing address | P.O. Box 2734 Seattle, WA 98111 |
| Campaign phone number | 206.898.9841 |
| Campaign FAX | 425.572.0854 (call first) |

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| Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience. |
| Which undergraduate and law schools have you attended? Include Graduation date, degrees. |
| Gonzaga University School of Law, JD 1993, summa cum laude |
| Gonzaga University, BA 1987, magna cum laude with honors |

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| <p>Hours and types of pro bono work performed.</p> <p>I have long been active in pro bono and volunteer work. I served as an unfunded member of the Legal Aid Committee of the Washington State Bar Association and on the legal aid funding sub-committee. As the Washington Women Lawyers Vice President for Leadership Development in 2002, I co-chaired a statewide conference following up on the Gender & Justice "Glass Ceiling" report. In 2003, I worked with a group of women attorneys and judges in Spokane in developing a seminar at Gonzaga University School of Law, designed to give concrete strategies for women and minorities to develop successful law practices. I was part of the committee that organized the "Color of Justice 2006" program to encourage high school students of color to pursue careers in law, a program that will continue in 2008. Before taking the bench, I was a volunteer lawyer on an as needed basis for the Spokane County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyer Program, the Center for Justice and University Legal Assistance at Gonzaga University School of Law. I am also a volunteer mentor to women students at Gonzaga University (undergraduate and law school) and through the "Upward Bound" program, in which I have been mentoring an at-risk high school student (now a sophomore) since her 7th grade year. Since the Washington State Bar Association began recognizing pro bono service I have received commendation for giving over 50 hours of pro bono services annually.</p> |
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Have you ever been a prosecutor for any government entity? If yes, where and how long?

No

Have you ever defended a person accused of a crime? If yes, where and how many cases?

Apart from amicus curiae work in a few cases, my only direct representation was as co-counsel on appeal in *State v. Birnel*, successfully challenging the constitutionality of the then pattern jury instruction on self-defense.

Have you ever served as an arbitrator or Mediator? If yes, where and how many times?

No

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| How many times have you participated as a judge or attorney in: | |
|---|--------------|
| Municipal Court | 0 |
| District Court | 0 |
| Superior Court jury trials | 4 |
| Arguments in Court of Appeals | 25 (approx) |
| Arguments in State Supreme Court | 130 (approx) |
| Federal District Court trials | 3 |

| What ratings and endorsements have you received? | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Municipal League | n/a |
| King County Bar Association | pending |
| Washington Women Lawyers | Exceptionally well qualified |
| Loren Miller Bar Association | Well qualified |
| QLAW: the GLBT Bar Association | Exceptionally well qualified |
| Latina/Latino Bar Association | Exceptionally well qualified |
| Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee | Exceptionally well qualified |

| Which organizations and individuals have endorsed you in this race? |
|---|
| <p>Justice Mary E. Fairhurst - Justice Faith Ireland (Ret.) - Justice Barbara Madsen - Justice Susan Owens - Justice Richard B. Sanders - Justice Charles Smith - Justice Phil Talmadge (Ret.) - Hon. Rebecca Baker - Hon. Darrell L. Cochran - Hon. Leonard W. Costello - Hon. Salvatore F. Cozza - Hon. Anne L Ellington - Hon. Robert L. Harris - Hon. Russell W. Hartman - Hon. Laura Inveen - Hon. C. Kimi Kondo - Hon. Anna M. Laurie - Hon. Dean Lum - Hon. Kathleen M. O'Connor - Hon. Sally F. Olsen - Hon. Annette Plese - Hon. Kim Prochnar - Hon. Neal Rielly - Hon. Ann Schindler - Hon. Theodore Spearman - Hon. Julie A Spector - King County Executive Ron Sims - King County Council Member Dow Constantine - Senator Bob McCaslin</p> <p>John P Ahlers - Anthony Alfieri - David Alskog - Jason Amala - Mimy Bailey - Ben Barcus - Bo Barker - James Beck - Bonnie Bell - Rachel Black - Beverly J. Bonner - Thomas Breen - Jonathan Bridge - Robert Bryan - Ted Buck - Charles R Bush - Reuven Carlyle - Heather Carr - Jessica Clawson - Karen Cobb - Dr. David Cohen - Vernice Cohen - Sheila Collins - Karen Cooper - Tom Cordell - J. Richard Creatura - Rob Crichton - Sandra Crowell - J. Donald Curran - Va Lena Curran - Angelique Davis - Bob Dawson - Michael J. Delay P.S. - Fred Diamondstone - P. Stephen DiJulio - Thomas R Dreiling - Leo Driscoll - Mary Driscoll -</p> |

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Susan Drummond - Laura Einstein - Heather Elkin - Tom Fain - Joan Fairbanks - Stephen Festor - Bob Finn - Mary K Fleck - Donovan Flora - William J. Flynn, Jr. - David Foster-Koth - Scott Furman - Andrew Gabel - Javier F Garcia - Martin Garfinkel - Sheryl Gordon McCloud - Marc Greenough - Alberto Guadagno - Leslie Hagin - Vernon Harkins - Aleana Harris - Paul Henderson - Marilyn Highberg - Walter Highberg - Gregg H HiraKawa - Hal Hodgins - Frank Hoover - Richard Hopp - Donald Horowitz - Mary A. Hotchkiss - Lem Howell - Nancy Isserlis - Ray Kahler - Lawrence Kahn - Colleen Kinerk - J. Murray Kleist - Tina Kondo - Carla C Lee - Richard E. Lewis - Elizabeth Lindsay - Judith Lonnquist - Terry Lukens - Terry Lumsden - Gary A Maehara - Daniel A Mares - Toby Marshall - Grady Martin - Bradley A Maxa - Ryan McBride - John McCullough - Evy McElmeel - William S McGonagle - Herb McIntosh - Ronald F. McKay - Ronald Meltzer - Barry Meshner - John Messina - Steve Milam - Ron and Jill Miller - Robert Mitchell - Brad J Moore - Eric Nielson - Emil Nowoj - Marie Ormsby - Richard Ormsby - Vicki E. Orrico - Alice Ostdiek - James Oswald - William Patton - Paukert Law Group P.S. - Allison Peters - Amie Peters - Rosanna Peterson - Michael Pfau - Kathleen Phair Barnard - Billie Pierce - Narda Pierce - Rod Plese - Vic Plese - D. Jill Pugh - George Purdy - Michele Radosevich - Noella Rawlings - Janet Rice - Sheila Ridgway - Charles W Riley, Jr. - R. Gregg Rodgers - Morris Rosenberg - Steve Rummage - Crystal Grace Rutherford - William Rutzick - Renea Saade - Michele Sales - David Sanders - Patrick Schneider - Peter Schweda - Sylvia See - Gene Sementi, Jr. - Courtland Shafer - Larry Shannon - Bill Sherman - Franklin W Shoichet - Lincoln Sieler - Marc Silverman - Steve Sitcov - Janice G. Smith - Mona Smith - Wayne G. Smith - Mariane Spearman - Michael Spearman - Hugh Spitzer - Thaddeus H Spratlen - H. Douglas Spruance, III - James Stoetzer - Michael C Subit - Beth Terrell - William Thayer - Joan Tierney - Cherry Tinker - Todd Tinker - Steven Toole - Barbara Toomey - Vicky Vreeland - Lorna Walsh - Arthur Wang - Ron Ward - Yvonne Ward - Michael Washington - Mary Wechsler - Thomas West - Tina Witcher - Charles Wiggins - Gayle Williams - James Williams - James Williams - Vickie Williams - Wayne Williams - Michael Withey - Benson Wong - Gordon Woodley - Daniel Zimmeroff

Which judicial candidates have you endorsed in the past five years?

None before 2008, as endorsement was prohibited by my former position. Thus far in 2008 I have formally endorsed:

Justice Mary Fairhurst

Justice Charles Johnson

Kevin Korsmo (Div. III Court of Appeals)

Theodore Spearman (Kitsap Cy. Sup. Court)

Monica Benton (King Cy. Sup. Court)

Have there ever been any successful claims made against you or your malpractice carrier? If "yes" please attach explanation.

No

List any complaints you have received through any Bar Association, Judicial Conduct

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Committee or Board, or private insurance carrier. (Attach on a separate sheet of paper.)

None.

What is your strongest area of legal expertise?

I have the greatest competence in complex civil litigation and appellate practice. Substantive areas of focus in practice included employment law, discrimination law, product liability law, insurance law, tort law, community property, and state constitutional law.

What recommendations do you have for improving court system funding and administration?

Adequate funding of the judicial system must be a high priority for the state, including funding of interpreter and other access services. In addition to recommending to the Legislature an adequate budget for the courts, the judiciary can improve the administration of justice by implementing cost-effective practices. To this end, one area in which I am involved is the development of greater cost-saving technologies at all levels of courts. One example applicable to the appellate courts is electronic filing of briefs and other materials, which conserves valuable court resources and allows easier state-wide access to the appellate courts. I do not support increased filing fees in the courts, as this negatively impacts access to justice for many citizens.

What actions have you taken in the last five years on issues regarding access to the judicial system?

I believe judges play a key role in enhancing access to justice, both through work with judicial organizations dedicated to improving the law and through the atmosphere they foster in their courtrooms. Much of my judicial committee work is dedicated to this end. As both a lawyer and judge I have been involved in fostering the improvement of legal aid services in Washington, dating back to my earliest assignment as a member of the WSBA legal aid committee. I was a regular

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participant in pro bono activity and remain a staunch advocate of pro bono and institutionalized legal aid services.

What recommendations do you have for increasing access to the judicial system (Civil and Criminal)?

One key to greater access is the increased accessibility of professional legal services. If even 10% more of the lawyers admitted to the Washington State Bar committed a small portion of their time to providing free or reduced fee services, this would have a significant impact on improving access. In addition to directly promoting pro bono work, one of the ways I can support access as a Justice is by helping develop better legal aid and pro bono coordination at all levels of service, for example through the leadership of the court-directed Access to Justice Board.

If a sitting Judge, what committees have you been appointed to and what are the significant accomplishments of those committees or yourself? If not, which committee assignments would you seek?

I currently serve on the judicial education committee, the Supreme Court technology improvement committee, the court rules committee and as a trustee of the judicial college.

Have you reviewed the General Rule Definition of the Practice of Law, and the Practice of Law Board's Work? – Do you have comments or ideas? Would you be in favor of the proposed Legal Technician Rule? This rule allows trained, tested and licensed non-lawyers to provide specifically defined legal services without supervision by a lawyer. Please explain.

I am familiar with the GRs and the Practice of Law Board's work, including the proposed Legal Technician Rule. The Court Rules Committee on which I serve has given WSBA the opportunity to provide input on the rule following discussion at its September 2008 Board of Governor's meeting. As a member of the Court Rules committee I do not believe it is appropriate for me to take a position on a rule pending before the committee, as our process is to carefully consider the recommendation of

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the POL Board and the input of various stakeholders before acting on the proposed rule.

Have you been appointed as a guardian or Guardian Ad Litem? If "yes", please give the details?

No.

How have you promoted diversity within your staff?

I have a staff of three, so diversity is necessarily individual. Among my law clerks I encourage students from diverse backgrounds to apply. Three of the five clerks I have hired are women and two are members of an ethnic minority group. I joined my staff last Fall in completing cultural competency training, and will continue to require this in the future.

What are the main messages of your campaign? What is your campaign plan? How many doors have you knocked on to date, pieces of mail planned, budgeting, staffing? What is the fundraising goal for your campaign? How much have you raised to date? Why will you win?

The main messages of my campaign are: First, my qualifications and my experience allow me to bring the necessary depth of understanding of the law and the Constitution, as well as the temperament required to be a fair and impartial Justice; and second, that my unique background, in part by being the first woman Justice from Eastern Washington, is a clear benefit to being a Justice for all of Washington.

I will have to rely on endorsing organizations to help me complete a successful doorbelling campaign. My media strategy is being determined (mail, TV, radio, etc). Our fundraising goal is currently about \$250,000. I have raised more than \$50,000 to date. The depth and breadth of support being given on my campaign from people from all around Washington and from all walks of life will give me the support I will need to accomplish a successful statewide campaign. I have an experienced campaign manager, consultant, fundraiser, and steering committee—and I am dedicated to serving in this position.

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| I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information. | | |
| Printed Name | Debra Stephens | Date |
| Signature | | 4/1/08 |